



Placer County Health and Human Services Department

Jeffrey S. Brown, M.P.H., M.S.W.
Department Director

Wesley G. Nicks, R.E.H.S.
Environmental Health, Director

October 21, 2016

Eastern Regional Landfill
11476 C Ave
Auburn, CA 95603
Attention: Phil Barker, Water System Operator

**Re: Eastern Regional Landfill Water System, Public Water System # 3105779
Exceedance of the Bacteriological Maximum Contaminant Level, Citation # 2016-011**

I am writing to inform you that this department has received sample results for your drinking water system that indicate the presence of coliform bacteria in exceedance of the maximum contaminant level. The presence of coliform bacteria is a serious public health concern and is a violation of the Total Coliform Rule as per Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations¹. The sample results we received are charted below:

Routine Sample Collected 10/19/2016:

TART Conference Sink

Total Coliform: 16.4MPN/100mL

Repeat Samples Collected 10/20/2016:

TART Conference Sink

Total Coliform Absent

Well Head

Total Coliform Absent

Bus Shed Break Room

Total Coliform: 3.1 MPN/mL

ERL Compound Residence Hose Bibb

Total Coliform Absent

As the local agency responsible for ensuring the public health and safety of small drinking water systems such as yours, we are required by the California Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water to issue this citation and require that corrective actions are taken in a timely manner. Please complete the following:

1. Prepare and distribute a consumer notification within 30 days of the issuance of this letter. This notification must conform to the requirements of a Tier 2 Notice and include specific health effect language². A template and instructions are attached.
2. Return the signed certification to this department within 10 days of posting the consumer notification.
3. Thoroughly inspect the water system to determine the cause of contamination and make repairs as necessary. Complete the attached assessment form to describe your findings and any actions taken. Return the assessment to this office within 30 days of the issuance of this letter.
4. Maintain chlorine residual until any and all repairs are completed. When it appears that all problems are resolved, allow the chlorine to dissipate. After all traces of chlorine are gone, take samples at the following locations as designated in the bacteriological sample siting plan. Have these samples tested and enumerated for total coliform and e-coli. Lab reports must indicate chlorine as non-detect.
 - Well Head

- TART Room Conference Sink
- Bus Shed Break Room
- ERL Compound Residence Hose Bibb

Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information or direction as needed. Failure to comply with this citation constitutes a violation and may result in enforcement action by this office.

Sincerely,



Danielle Pohlman, REHS
Environmental Health Specialist
Direct Line (530) 745-2390
Fax (530) 745-2370
DPohlman@Placer.ca.gov

Attachments:

Instructions for Tier 2 Unresolved Total Coliform Notice Template – 2 pages

Consumer Notification Template – 2 pages

Proof of Notification – 1 page

Level 1 Assessment Form – 5 pages

¹ California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 22, Section 64426.1.

² CCR, Section 64463.4 and 64

Instructions for Tier 2 Unresolved Total Coliform Notice Template

Template Attached

Since exceeding the total coliform bacteria maximum contaminant level is a Tier 2 violation, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within 30 days after you learn of the violation [California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 15, Section 64463.4(b)]. Persistent total coliform problems can be serious.

Notification Methods

You must use the methods summarized in the table below to deliver the notice to consumers. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

| <i>If You Are a...</i> | <i>You Must Notify Consumers by...</i> | <i>...and By One or More of the Following Methods to Reach Persons Not Likely to be Reached by the Previous Method...</i> |
|--|--|---|
| Non-Community Water System [64463.4(c)(2)] | Posting in conspicuous locations throughout the area served by the water system ^(b) | Publication in a local newspaper or newsletter distributed to customers |
| | | Email message to employees or students |
| | | Posting ^(b) on the Internet or intranet |
| | | Direct delivery to each customer |

(a) Notice must be distributed to each customer receiving a bill including those that provide their drinking water to others (e.g., schools or school systems, apartment building owners, or large private employers), and other service connections to which water is delivered by the water system.

(b) Notice must be posted in place for as long as the violation or occurrence continues, but in no case less than seven days.

The notice attached is appropriate for the methods described above. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for posting. If you do, you must still include all the required elements and leave the health effects and notification language in italics unchanged. This language is mandatory [64465].

Multilingual Requirement

The notice must (1) be provided in English, Spanish, and the language spoken by any non-English-speaking group exceeding 10 percent of the persons served by the water system and (2) include a telephone number or address where such individuals may contact the water system for assistance.

If any non-English-speaking group exceeds 1,000 persons served by the water system, but does not exceed 10 percent served, the notice must (2) include information in the appropriate language(s) regarding the importance of the notice and (2) contain the telephone number or address where such individuals may contact the water system to obtain a translated copy of the notice from the water system or assistance in the appropriate language.

Population Served

Make sure it is clear who is served by your water system -- you may need to list the areas you serve.

Description of the Violation

The description of the violation and the MCL vary depending on the number of samples you take. The following table should help you complete the second paragraph of the template.

| <u>If You Take Fewer Than 40 Samples a Month</u> | <u>If You Take 40 or More Samples a Month</u> |
|--|---|
| State the number of samples testing positive for coliform. The standard is that no more than one sample per month may be positive. | State the percentage of samples testing positive for coliform. The standard is that no more than 5.0 percent of samples may test positive each month. |

Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. If you know what is causing the coliform problem, explain this in the notice. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with a total coliform violation. Use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- “We are chlorinating and flushing the water system.”
- “We are increasing sampling for coliform bacteria.”
- “We are investigating the source of contamination.”
- “We are repairing the wellhead seal.”
- “We are repairing the storage tank.”
- “We will inform you when additional samples show no coliform bacteria.”

After Issuing the Notice

Send a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements to Placer County Environmental Health within ten days after you issue the notice [64469(d)].

It is recommended that you notify health professionals in the area of the violation. People may call their doctors with questions about how the violation may affect their health, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately.

It is a good idea to issue a “problem corrected” notice when the violation is resolved.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.

Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Eastern Regional Landfill Water System Has Levels of Coliform Bacteria Above the Drinking Water Standard

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what you should do, what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We have collected five samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria so far during the month of October 2016.

Two of those samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may do so.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.**
- This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*
- Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately. However, we are still finding coliforms in the drinking water.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.
- If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

We are investigating the source of contamination and will be making some repairs. We will be chlorinating and flushing the water system. We will inform you when our sampling shows that no bacteria are present. We anticipate resolving as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact:

Eastern Regional Landfill, Phil Barker 530-886-4935

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this public notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

Secondary Notification Requirements

Upon receipt of notification from a person operating a public water system, the following notification must be given within 10 days [Health and Safety Code Section 116450(g)]:

- SCHOOLS: Must notify school employees, students, and parents (if students are minors).
- RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS OR MANAGERS (including nursing homes and care facilities): Must notify tenants.
- BUSINESS PROPERTY OWNERS, MANAGERS, OR OPERATORS: Must notify employees of businesses located on the property.

This notice is being sent to you by Eastern Regional Landfill Water System.

State Water System ID#:3105779. Date distributed: .

PROOF OF NOTIFICATION

Name of Water System: Eastern Regional Landfill Water System

System Number: 3105779

Certification

As required by Section 116450 of the California Health and Safety Code, I notified the users of the water supplied by the Eastern Regional Landfill Water System of the violations of Title 22, California Code of Regulations (CCR) for the compliance periods of October 1 - 31, 2016. I complied with the Directives of this Citation as indicated below:

| Required Action | Date Completed |
|--|----------------|
| Public Notification – by Hand Delivery | |
| Public Notification – by Posting | |

Signature of Water System
Representative

Date

Attach a copy of the notice(s) delivered to consumers and posted w/in the system

**THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO PLACER COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Disclosure: Be advised that Section 116725 and 116730 of the California Health and Safety Code states that any person who knowingly makes any false statement on any report or document submitted for the purpose of compliance with the attached order may be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each separate violation for each day that violation continues. In addition, the violators may be prosecuted in criminal court and upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$25,000 for each day of violation, or be imprisoned in county jail not to exceed one year, or by both the fine and imprisonment.